

of assignment to the same assignee as this application, each filed August 27, 1999, and each also incorporated by reference.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 2, 9, 16, and 23 without prejudice or disclaimer.  
Please amend claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22 and 24 as indicated below. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants herewith present all currently pending claims as amended.

Sub 7  
B1  
A2

1. **(AMENDED)** A method of evaluating characters in a message, comprising the steps of:

- a) accepting an input of the characters of the message;
- b) evaluating the message by individually comparing each of the characters of the message to an entry for each candidate character sets in a character table bank to determine a match between the predetermined set of candidate character sets and the message; and
- c) selecting a best match between the message and the candidate character sets.

2. [CANCELLED]

A3

3. (**AMENDED**) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of comparing each character comprises the step of testing the ability of each candidate character set to express that character by performing a logical mask between a universal code for that character and an indicator in the character table bank indicating whether each of the candidate character sets contains that character.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the universal code is Unicode.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of (d) computing a total number of characters matched to each of the candidate character sets.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of (c) selecting a best match comprises selecting the best match based upon the total number of characters matched to each of the candidate character sets.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of (e) applying a weighting factor to at least one of the total number of characters matched.

SUB 27  
A4

8. (**AMENDED**) A system for evaluating characters in a message, comprising:  
an input interface to accept an input of the characters of the message;  
and  
a processor unit, connected to the input interface, the processor unit

8/27  
#4

evaluating the message by individually comparing each of the characters of the message to an entry for each candidate character sets in a a character table bank to determine a match between the predetermined set of candidate character sets and the message, and selecting a best match between the message and the candidate character sets.

9. [CANCELLED]

#5

10. **(AMENDED)** The system of claim 8, wherein the processor unit tests the ability of each candidate character set to express that character by performing a logical mask between a universal code for that character and an indicator in the character table bank indicating whether each of the candidate character sets contains that character.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the universal code is Unicode.

12. The system of claim 8, wherein the processor unit computes a total number of characters matched to each of the candidate character sets.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the processor unit selects the best match based upon the total number of characters matched to each of the candidate character sets.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the processor unit applies a weighting factor to at least one of the total number of characters matched.

SUB  
B37  
AP

15. **(AMENDED)** A system for evaluating characters in a message, comprising:  
input interface means to accept an input of the characters of the message; and  
processor means, connected to the input interface means, the processor means evaluating the message by individually comparing each of the characters of the message to an entry for each candidate character sets in a character table bank to determine a match between the predetermined set of candidate character sets and the message, and selecting a best match between the message and the candidate character sets.

16. [CANCELLED]

AT

17. **(AMENDED)** The system of claim 15, wherein the processor means tests the ability of each candidate character set to express that character by performing a logical mask between a universal code for that character and an indicator in the character table bank indicating whether each of the candidate character sets contains that character.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the universal code is Unicode.
19. The system of claim 15, wherein the processor means computes a total number of characters matched to each of the candidate character sets.
20. The system of claim 19, wherein the processor means selects the best match based upon the total number of characters matched to each of the candidate character sets.
21. The system of claim 20, wherein the processor means applies a weighting factor to at least one of the total number of characters matched.

SUB  
B4  
ASK

22. (**AMENDED**) A storage medium for storing machine readable code, the machine readable code being executable to evaluate characters in an electronic message according to the steps of:

- a) accepting an input of the characters of the message;
- b) evaluating the message by individually comparing each of the characters of the message to an entry for each candidate character sets in a character table bank to determine a match between the predetermined set of candidate character sets and the message; and
- c) selecting a best match between the message and the candidate character sets.

23. [CANCELLED]

AG 24. (**AMENDED**) The medium of claim 22, wherein the step of comparing each character comprises the step of testing the ability of each candidate character set to express that character by performing a logical mask between a universal code for that character and an indicator in the character table bank indicating whether each of the candidate character sets contains that character.

25. The storage medium of claim 24, wherein the universal code is Unicode.

26. The storage medium of claim 22, wherein the steps further comprise the step of (d) computing a total number of characters matched to each of the candidate character sets.

27. The storage medium of claim 26, wherein the step of (c) selecting a best match comprises selecting the best match based upon the total number of characters matched to each of the candidate character sets.

28. The storage medium of claim 27, further comprising the step of (e) applying a weighting factor to at least one of the total number of characters matched.